

don't stay there. They leave and one remains to light the hole. So Carl Myers, who was working with my dad, went to the next level, as a matter of fact, and waited until the holes were lit, and then my dad would come up and meet him and the holes would go off.

What happened was that one of the pieces of fuse was defective, and it set off one of the holes prematurely. It blew my dad's light out and blew one of the soles off his shoe. He was hurt and in a state of shock. What the miners did in those days, in a shaft, is they would have a sinking ladder about 10 feet long and they would take it up before the holes went off and then they would climb out on that ladder. My dad, even though he was hurt, knew he had to get out of that mine because he knew there were six other holes burning. They were covered with muck. He had to get out of there, so he put the ladder down and tried to climb out, but it kept falling over. His mind wasn't working well and he couldn't understand why that was, but the blast had blown one of the legs off the ladder, so it kept tipping over.

The man that was on the next level, knowing how many holes had been drilled and knowing only one had gone off and that there were six more to go, in spite of that, came down and helped carry my dad, who was much bigger than he was, out of that mine. He got a medal for heroism, and the incident was written up by the great journalist Lowell Thomas.

I can remember as a boy my mother still picking rocks out of my dad's back as a result of that blast. In a book I wrote about Searchlight, I talk about a number of the deaths in the mines at Searchlight. My dad worked quite a bit at Blossom, and the dad of one of my friends I grew up with was killed in that mine. My dad carried him out of that hole. So I have some knowledge about how people feel when these mining accidents occur.

As I said, this tragedy brought back a lot of memories, and I extend my condolences to all the people of West Virginia, through Governor Manchin, Senator BYRD, and Senator ROCKEFELLER. I sympathize with the people of West Virginia for their loss.

I also extend my condolences to the people of Poland. That plane carried 96 souls—parents, husbands, wives, and friends. It carried that nation's President, its First Lady, its Deputy Foreign Minister, lawmakers, their military chief of staff, and so many other military and civilian leaders. The tragic loss is unthinkable, and America grieves alongside our friends in Poland, especially when you understand where they were going and why they were going there—20,000 Poles had been killed by the Russians even before war on Germany was declared by us.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO CHAPLAIN BLACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to welcome back my colleagues. I know each of us cherishes the time we get to spend at home and the face-to-face conversations we have with our neighbors and constituents.

Prior to beginning my remarks, because he is in the Chamber, I wish to extend my appreciation to our Chaplain, Admiral Black. He has been so concerned about my family as a result of the accident that occurred in the Presiding Officer's State. He has communicated with my wife personally, he has prayed for her personally and publicly and in different groups, and it just indicates what a family we are in the Senate. I personally appreciate the thoughts and more than one personal conversation with Chaplain Black about Landra.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last December, just minutes before the Senate passed the health care reform bill that President Obama signed into law last month, my friend, the Republican leader, predicted we would get an earful when we got home, and he was right. Everywhere I went in Nevada, from the two big cities of Reno and Las Vegas, to Elko and Carson City and my hometown of Searchlight, Nevadans, young and old—people, in general—came up to me and said: Thank you—numerous people, without any exaggeration.

One mother told me how grateful she was she could finally cover her child's health care. Her child has juvenile diabetes. Parents such as she told me how grateful they were that they would be able to keep their kids on their insurance until they are 26 years old. Out-of-work Nevadans—and there is more than one I would like to acknowledge—explained to me how grateful they were that finally they will be able to afford their own health care while they try to find a full-time job.

Seniors, individually and in groups, told me how grateful they are now that they will not have to worry about whether they are going to have to split a pill or take a pill because the doughnut hole has been filled. Everyone—every senior citizen in America, every Social Security recipient—understands what the doughnut hole was and isn't anymore.

Many small businesses told me that because of the tax cuts this Congress passed and our President signed into law because of the health care bill this year, they will be able to afford health insurance for the first time in their lives for their employees—24,000 of those small businesses in Nevada.

These people haven't been fooled by the opposition's strategy of myths and misinformation. They aren't frightened by the campaign of fear and false cries of socialism.

I know I am not the only one who got an earful of thanks from constituents

whose lives are changing for the better because of this historic reform. I also heard one other thing everywhere I went: This law should not be repealed.

A week ago this Sunday, I returned from Salt Lake City to Las Vegas, and the front page of the Salt Lake Tribune had a story, which I will paraphrase, but basically it said that those people in Utah are no longer talking about repealing the bill; they are talking about trying to improve the bill.

It is hard for people to talk about repealing this bill which gives such immediate benefits to the American people. It is difficult to try to have someone say I would like this bill repealed because I do not agree with the \$1.3 trillion by which this legislation is going to reduce the debt of this country in the second 10 years—\$142 billion in the first 10 years.

I explained to people at home, if you have a fight in a ring, you have a referee, a referee there to be as fair as they can to make sure it is a fair fight. In this health care debate, we had such an entity in the ring with us as we battled, Democrats and Republicans. It was set up many years ago, this referee; it was called the Congressional Budget Office. It is not run by Republicans or Democrats. It is there to be fair. It is their determination this legislation over the first 10 years would save \$142 billion, the second 10 years would reduce the debt by a further \$1.3 trillion.

People all over America, and Nevadans, now have more control than ever over their health, more protection from insurance companies, and more opportunity than ever before to have a healthy life.

As it relates to the economy, Nevadans know that health reform is economic reform. It will save families money in the short run and save our country money in the long run. But they also know we have to do more. We have to make more investments today to help our economy run better tomorrow. One of the best ways to do that is by creating green jobs, and that has worked so well, jobs right here at home that can never be outsourced, jobs that strengthen our Nation's economic, environmental and national safety and security.

Boulder City is a city in Nevada. It was built because of the Boulder Dam, now Hoover Dam. It is a great and beautiful little city. It is the only city in Nevada that has a growth ordinance. But they have also been very far-sighted. I extend my appreciation to Mayor Tobler and all the city council. They have set up a zone where they are creating green jobs, and lots of green jobs. I went there. It is between Railroad Pass and Searchlight and part of it is Boulder City. It was amazing what we saw there. For acre after acre, workers, men and women in their hard hats and their orange vests, were placing 1 million solar panels in place—1 million in the desert to produce enough electricity for about 45,000 homes. It is